

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe fusion machine for fusing sections of pipe to form a pipeline, comprising:

(a) a fusing mechanism; and

(b) a cleaning mechanism for cleaning debris from the external surface of the sections of pipe prior to fusion of the same, said cleaning mechanism comprising:

- a first discus plate having, with respect to said cleaning mechanism, an interior surface ~~a top and bottom surface,~~
- a second discus plate having, with respect to said cleaning mechanism, an interior surface ~~a top and bottom surface,~~
- a flexible discus wiper having planar surfaces, wherein the interior surfaces of said first and second discus plates and the planar surfaces of said flexible discus wiper are in a parallel configuration, positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and
- a plurality of independent spacers removably affixed to the ~~bottom interior~~ surface of said first discus plate and the ~~top interior~~ surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said flexible discus wiper to be held between said interior surfaces of said discus plates.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said spacers is removably affixed to said discus plates so that, when removed from said discus plates, ~~the said~~ flexible discus wiper may be removed from between said discus plates.

5. (Previously Presented) The pipe fusion machine of Claim 14, wherein the pipe sections being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the diameter of the

aperture of said flexible discus wiper is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections.

6. (Currently Amended) A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine, comprising:

- (a) a first discus plate having, with respect to said pipe cleaner, an interior surface a top and bottom surface,
- (b) a second discus plate having, with respect to said pipe cleaner, an interior surface a top and bottom surface,
- (c) a flexible discus wiper, wherein the interior surface of said first and second discus plates and the planar surfaces of said flexible discus wiper are in a parallel configuration, positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and
- (d) a plurality of independent spacers removably affixed to the ~~bottom~~ interior surface of said first discus plate and the ~~top~~ interior surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said flexible discus wiper to be held between said interior surfaces of said discus plates.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The pipe ~~cleaner fusion machine~~ of Claim 6, wherein at least one of said spacers is removably affixed to said discus plates so that, when removed from said ~~plate configuration discus plates,~~ said flexible discus wiper may be removed from between said discus plates.

9. (Currently Amended) The pipe ~~cleaner fusion machine~~ of Claim 15, wherein the pipe sections being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the diameter of the aperture of said flexible discus wiper is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections.

10. (Withdrawn) A pipe cleaner for use with a pipe fusion machine in cleaning pipe, comprising:

- (a) a mounting frame; and

- (b) a plurality of spring loaded wipers each comprising a flap and a hollow tube, wherein
 - the flaps each have an inner and outer edge being positioned concentrically so that said inner edges form a hole to receive said pipe; and
 - said hollow tubes being affixed to each of said flaps near the outer edge thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) An improved method for fusing sections of pipe, whereby the improvement comprises cleaning the sections of pipe prior to the fusion of the same by means of a cleaning mechanism comprising:

- (a) a first discus plate having, with respect to said pipe cleaner, an interior surface a top and bottom surface,
- (b) a second discus plate having, with respect to said pipe cleaner, an interior surface a top and bottom surface,
- (c) a flexible discus wiper having planar surfaces, wherein the interior surfaces of said first and second discus plates and the planar surfaces of said flexible discus wiper are in a parallel configuration, positioned between the bottom surface of said first discus plate and the top surface of said second discus plate, and
- (d) a plurality of independent spacers removably affixed to the ~~bottom~~ interior surface of said first discus plate and the ~~top~~ interior surface of said second discus plate, said spacers connecting and separating said discus plates, and being sized and positioned to allow said flexible discus wiper to be held between said interior surfaces of said discus plates.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim~~ Claim 11, wherein at least one of said spacers is removably affixed to said discus plates so that, when removed from said ~~plate configuration~~ discus plates, the ~~said flexible discus~~ wiper may be removed from between said discus plates.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~method pipe fusion machine~~ of Claim 16, wherein the pipe sections being fused by the pipe fusion machine have corresponding diameters, and wherein the diameter of the aperture of said flexible discus wiper is slightly less than the corresponding diameters of said pipe sections.

14. (Currently Amended) The pipe fusion machine of ~~claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said flexible discus wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.

15. (Currently Amended) The pipe cleaner of ~~claim~~ Claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said flexible discus wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~method pipe fusion machine~~ of ~~claim~~ Claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said flexible discus wiper comprises a disk having an aperture therethrough, the circumference of said aperture being defined by the inside edge of said disk.